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INDIA.

Rules for vessels leaving Calcutta.

CALCUTTA, November 12, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of letter received from the secretary of the government of Bengal in reply to one from Consul-General Patterson announcing my arrival and mission. The regulation that rat guards shall be used on all boats at dock is now going its official rounds, and I am informed by the port health officer that it will probably be approved. In reply to the inclosed copy, I have suggested that vessels bound for American ports be treated as those now are at Calcutta bound for Australia; that is, that rat guards be placed on the dock lines and that rats be killed when the vessel is free from cargo.

Respectfully,

E. K. SPRAGUE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

[Inclosure.]

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT, MEDICAL BRANCH,
Calcutta, November 4, 1903.

SIR: I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 23, 1903, regarding the appointment of Passed Asst. Surg. E. K. Sprague, in connection with the inspection of vessels sailing from Calcutta for ports in the United States.

2. It is understood that Mr. Sprague's function will be to satisfy the Government of the United States that all necessary precautions are taken by the health officer of the port of Calcutta. The lieutenant-governor has no objection to his accompanying the port health officer on his visits of inspection of ships bound for the United States ports, or to his furnishing you with certificates in such cases, provided that this does not interfere in any way with the procedure laid down in plague regulation 14 issued by this government (a copy of which is inclosed), or in the executive orders issued thereunder. If Mr. Sprague has any special or supplementary suggestions to make, I am to request that you will forward them to government, and I am to say that they will receive due consideration.

3. The health officer of the port of Calcutta has been instructed to afford Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague every facility for conducting inspection.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

L. P. SHIRRES,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

THE UNITED STATES CONSUL-GENERAL.

[To be handed over to master.]

PLAQUE REGULATION NO. 14.

CALCUTTA, April 25, 1899.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the epidemic diseases act III of 1897, and by the notification of the government of India in the home department, No. 302, dated the 4th February, and in supersession of plague regulation No. 14, dated March 1, 1899, the lieutenant-governor of Bengal is pleased to declare that all vessels and persons leaving the port of Calcutta for ports out of India or for any

port in Burma or the presidencies of Madras or Bombay shall be subjected to the rules in the regulation hereinafter set forth:

RULES.

1. *Vessels proceeding to ports out of India.*—No vessel shall leave the port of Calcutta for any port out of India until she has been inspected by the health officer and the master or person in charge of such vessel has obtained from such officer a bill of health in Form A, given below, stating (1) that the master or person in charge, officers, crew, and passengers (if any) of such vessel have been inspected by him by day on shore at the time of embarkation, and are free from infectious disease dangerous to life and from plague; and (2) that the clothing and bedding of all third-class or deck passengers, of native servants, and of the native crew of such vessel have been disinfected on shore under his superintendence in the manner prescribed in Appendix I.

2. *Vessels proceeding to Indian ports.*—No vessel shall leave the port of Calcutta for any port in Burma or the presidencies of Madras and Bombay until she has been inspected by the health officer and the master or person in charge of such vessel has obtained from such officer a bill of health in Form B, given below, stating that the master or person in charge, officers, crew, and passengers (if any) of such vessel have been inspected by him by day at the time of embarkation, and are free from infectious disease dangerous to life, and from plague.

3. *Removal of infected persons.*—Should the health officer be of opinion that any person so inspected is suffering from the plague, or is not free from the infection of plague, such person shall not be allowed to embark.

4. *Disinfection.*—All contaminated or suspected articles shall be thoroughly disinfected on shore, under the supervision of the health officer, in the manner prescribed in Appendix I.

5. *Compensation.*—If in the course of disinfecting any clothes, bedding, or other articles under Rule 1 or Rule 4, any damage is caused to such articles, the health officer is authorized to pay to the owner thereof such compensation as he may deem reasonable.

6. *Fresh bill of health, when necessary.*^a—After the master or person in charge of the vessel has obtained a bill of health under the provisions of these rules, no person who has not been inspected and passed thereunder, and no person who, after having been so inspected and passed, subsequently goes on shore, shall be admitted on board such vessel before she leaves the port unless such vessel is again inspected by the health officer of the port and another bill of health obtained from such officer by the master or person in charge of such vessel.

7. *Port clearance.*—(a) Except as provided for in clauses (b) and (c) of this rule, no port clearance shall be delivered to any vessel bound from Calcutta to any port out of India, or to any port in Burma or the presidencies of Madras or Bombay, unless and until the master or person in charge thereof shall produce the bill of health, so to be obtained as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the collector of customs to refuse delivery of the port clearance without the production of such bill of health.

(b) Provided that the collector of customs may grant port clearance to any vessel on the agent giving a guarantee that he will within forty-eight hours after the departure of the vessel produce to the collector a duplicate copy of the bill of health, as finally granted, signed by the health officer.

(c) If any agent of a vessel who has given a guarantee under clause (b) fails to produce a duplicate copy of the bill of health as aforesaid, he shall be bound to cause the vessel to be remoored in the port of Calcutta within forty-eight hours after her departure.

8. *Health officers.*—In these rules “health officer” means the health officer of the port of Calcutta, and includes an additional or assistant health officer and any person appointed by name or in virtue of his office to perform the duties of an additional or assistant health officer.

E. N. BAKER,
Off'y. Sec'y to the Govt. of Bengal.

FORM A.—BILL OF HEALTH.

This is to certify that the ship (or steamer) —, sailing under the — flag, and under the command of —, as master, of — tons, bound for —, with

^a Corrected by Bengal government, municipal department, medical, notification No. 154 T.—Plague, dated 25th May, 1901.

a crew of _____ persons (including officers and able-bodied seamen), and _____ passengers, is at the time of leaving this port in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and that no case of infectious disease dangerous to life, or of plague, exists among her officers, passengers, or crew, all of whom have been inspected by me by day on shore at the time of embarkation.

It is further certified that the clothes and bedding of all third-class or deck passengers, _____ in number, of all native servants, _____ in number, and of all the native crew, _____ in number, have been disinfected on shore under my superintendence in the manner prescribed for the disinfection of contaminated or suspected articles.

It is further certified that the town and port of Calcutta are at present (or as the case may be) *free from* plague, epidemic cholera, yellow fever, and all other dangerous epidemic disease.

FORM B.—BILL OF HEALTH.

This is to certify that the ship (or steamer) _____, sailing under the _____ flag, and under the command of _____ as master, of _____ tons, bound for _____, with a crew of _____ persons (including officers and able-bodied seamen) and _____ passengers, is at the time of leaving this port in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and that no case of infectious disease dangerous to life, or of plague, exists among her officers, passengers, or crew, all of whom have been inspected by me by day at the time of embarkation.

It is further certified that the town and port of Calcutta are at present (or as the case may be) *free from* plague, epidemic cholera, yellow fever, and all other dangerous epidemic disease.

APPENDIX I.

Underclothing, bedding, wearing apparel, mattresses, carpets, etc., which are contaminated or *suspected*, and other articles to be disinfected, should be exposed for fifteen minutes to saturated steam—under pressure, if possible—at a temperature of not less than 100° C. (212° F.), care being taken that the steam shall reach all parts of each article to be disinfected.

Disinfecting solutions:

(a) Solution of corrosive sublimate, of 1 part in 1,000, with the addition of 10 parts of chloride of soda.

The solution should be colored with aniline dye or indigo. It should not be placed in metal vessels.

(b) A 5 per cent solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent of crude commercial carbolic acid, *free from tar oils in a warm solution of soft soap*.

The carbolic solutions will be useful, more particularly for disinfecting articles, such as metals, instruments, etc., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° Centigrade nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate. They may also be used at ports not provided with a disinfecting stove of the prescribed pattern.

No. 860^{Medl.}
P.

Copy forwarded to the marine department for information in continuation of endorsement No. 1365 Medl., dated the 3rd March, 1899.

By order of the lieutenant-governor of Bengal:

B. FOLEY,

Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA, MUNICIPAL DEPT.—MEDICAL,
The 28th April, 1899.

Inspection at Calcutta of vessels bound for the United States.

Week ended November 7, 1903, bills of health issued as follows:

Date.	Vessel.	Europeans.	Lascars.
Nov. 3	Palitania	33
4	Simoom	19	28
4	Marienfels	28	35

The clothing and effects of the 63 lascars were disinfected by steam under 210 pounds pressure.